

July 25, 2015



Point of Contact:

Julia Lingham

jlingham@usadf.gov

202-233-8811

Press Release

Power Africa Off-Grid Energy Challenge Round III: GE Africa, USADF and USAID Announce 11 New Awards to African Energy Entrepreneurs companies

- 11 winning companies and enterprises from Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and Ethiopia will receive grants of up to \$100,000 each.
- Renewable energy projects, utilizing technologies such as wind, solar, hydro-electricity, and biogas, will provide over 400 kilowatts of new electricity capacity to sub-Saharan Africa's most rural communities.
- **\$5.0 Million Total:** This initiative, now in its third year, will extend \$5.0 million and 50 awards to energy entrepreneurs in nine African countries across the Continent.
- The Off-Grid Energy Challenge is part of Power Africa's Beyond the Grid sub-initiative, which aims to drive private investment in off-grid and small-scale renewable energy solutions.

NAIROBI- July 25, 2015- Through the Power Africa Off-Grid Energy Challenge, GE Africa, the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded \$1.1M to 11 companies across Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and Ethiopia. These 11 winners will each receive a grant of up to \$100,000 to expand their renewable energy solutions and reach those currently not served by the grid. The awards were announced during President Obama's trip to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Nairobi, as part of the U.S. Government's continued commitment to Power Africa and providing access to energy to underserved communities throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

The Power Africa Off-Grid Energy Challenge, funded by GE Africa, USADF and USAID, promotes innovative solutions that increase access to reliable, affordable and sustainable power. By the end of the third round, the \$5 million, three-year challenge will have awarded 50 or more grants of up to \$100,000 each to African companies and entrepreneurs providing off-grid solutions that utilize renewable resources in order to power economic activities. These energy entrepreneurs are finding solutions for rural communities to access power, including solar-powered mini-grids, home solar systems and revolving credit funds.

"We received an overwhelming response to this challenge from African entrepreneurs with creative solutions to Africa's energy crisis," says Power Africa Coordinator Andrew Herscowitz. "These grants provide these companies with the funding they need to scale their businesses and deliver results for their communities."

July 25, 2015



The most recent winning projects include five solar systems, three biogas generation projects, and a small hydro-electricity power plant, providing over 10,000 people with access to electricity. That's just \$100 per person invested for off-grid solutions to a brighter world.

Through an Off Grid Challenge grant, Ambalian Company will install a wind turbine in one of northern Kenya's rural communities to replace diesel-powered generators used currently to pump water. Rafode, a local Kenyan microfinance organization, will provide credit to fisherman in the Lake Victoria region to purchase solar lamps, thereby boosting the catch from their traditional nighttime fishing. And in Nigeria, Ajima Farms will develop a major biogas plant to provide electricity to homes and businesses currently living off the grid.

The Off-Grid Energy Challenge is catalyzing African entrepreneurs across the continent to spur innovative ideas into action to develop off-grid energy solutions. On July 29, Power Africa is opening up the Off-Grid Challenge to African energy entrepreneurs finding solutions to the power deficit in Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. In November, USADF will announce winners from these three countries as well as two additional grantees in Liberia, culminating in a sum total of \$2.2 million for Round III of the challenge and \$5.0 million total over the three year initiative.

The competition is part of Power Africa, a partnership-based effort to double access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than 600 million people still lack access to electricity.

ABOUT GE

GE (NYSE: GE) works on things that matter. The best people and the best technologies taking on the toughest challenges. Finding solutions in energy, health and home, transportation and finance. Building, powering, moving, and curing the world. Not just imagining. Doing. GE works. For more information, visit the company's website at www.ge.com.

GE Africa, a subsidiary of General Electric, Inc., delivers innovative technology solutions for regional challenges to help its customers support growth throughout the continent. In particular, GE Energy is providing a host of advanced solutions in water, oil & gas, and energy delivery technologies, with a focus on innovative localized energy solutions.

ABOUT USADF

The U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF), a public corporation in the U.S. federal government, funds African-owned enterprises, cooperatives and community-based organizations to build capacity and expand economic activities. In 19 countries with over 350 project grants, USADF is benefiting more than a million and a half Africans. USADF operates as the only U.S. agency exclusively centered on an African-led, grassroots development model to create pathways to prosperity for underserved communities. For more information on applying to the Challenge, go to www.USADF.gov.

July 25, 2015



ABOUT POWER AFRICA

In 2013, President Obama launched Power Africa, an innovative partnership of private sector partners, African governments, public funders, and technical institutions to double access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa where more than 600 million people currently lack access. Two years after its launch, Power Africa has helped transactions expected to generate over 4,100 megawatts of new, cleaner power generation throughout sub-Saharan Africa reach financial close.